

Dorothy McElhinney Middle School

Ms. Nuez

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts and Social Studies

Dear Parents,

August 2019

Welcome to Dorothy McElhinney Middle School! I look forward to getting to know you and working with you to provide your child with the best education this year. I would like us to work together to help the students develop a positive attitude toward school and learning. I believe that the learning experience in our classroom is important. The teacher has a right to teach, each student has a right to learn, and all students can and must behave appropriately. To assure each student, the best environment for learning, I will be using the following discipline policy:

**Student Rights**

**Fair and Equal Treatment:** In this classroom, it does not matter if you are male or female, who your brother or sister is, what your parents earn, or which ethnicity you identify with.

**Be Safe:** In this classroom, no one may cause you injury or discomfort. This includes the right to have your property, physical, and emotional well-being left alone and undamaged.

**Hear and Be Heard:** Others will be quiet as you speak, and you will quietly listen as others speak.

**Be Respected:** You do not have to put up with unkind remarks or name calling because of race, gender, religion, physical strength, size, features, friendship groups, age, culture, handicap, financial status, clothing, classroom performance, etc.

**Learn:** No one has the right to disrupt you or make it difficult for you to learn. Teachers should be free to teach and students free to learn without being interrupted by inconsiderate or unruly students.

**Be Responsible and Successful:** Guidance and direction are meant to aid you as a student and a citizen of this school community.

**Consequences**

1<sup>st</sup> offense - Warning an email to parent

2<sup>nd</sup> offense - Break Detention/Lunch Detention/Referral

Severe classroom behaviors will result in immediate removal from the classroom and referral to the administration.

Students with good behavior in my class will earn: 1.) Lots of praise and recognition, 2.) Student incentives, 3.) Special certificates, 4.) Participation in special events,(fun Friday) and 5.) A sense of pride and responsibility!

**Cheating & Plagiarism:** I adhere to a zero policy for cheating and plagiarism. If a student is caught, he/she will receive a zero for the assignment/test and will be required to write an essay on what cheating is and why it is important not to cheat. In addition, the incident will be reported to the office for further disciplinary action. Students are allowed to work with friends, but their work must be in their own words, and not just copied!!!! Don't plagiarize your friends work!

The **Language Arts** curriculum will enable students to experience success in reading through high-interest, multilevel literature. It integrates the California Content Standards of reading, writing, written and oral language conventions, listening and speaking. We will also read one of the novels A Wrinkle in Time, The Cay, The Boy in the Painted Cave, and or Fredrich along with a few independent book reports throughout the year. Students will also learn how to write narrative, argumentative, and informative/explanatory essays. This year we will be implementing our newly adopted curriculum: *Pearson, Perspectives*.

Our focus in **Social Studies** is on ancient civilizations. There are so many fascinating time periods in history, so we will be going on a tour through the ancient world! We will begin with a unit on Geography followed by themes on Archeology, Early Man, Mesopotamia, Israel, and Egypt. Second semester we will be studying India, China, Greece and Rome. Our textbook has engaging narrative and special features that extend and enhance the instruction. Fun things can happen as we explore the wonders of ancient cultures! Students will be required to keep an Interactive Student Notebook (ISN) for each semester with the units we study. The ISNs will be collected and graded at the end of each unit. They are expected to be neat, organized, and complete.

**Classwork/Homework** is usually given as an extension of the day's instruction. Each assignment is worth 10 points when complete, 0 points if it is late or incomplete. Be careful...it's amazing how a few lost points can add up quickly and bring down the grade! All assignments will be written on the board in the classroom and posted on my website. Students are given a Dorothy McElhinney Middle School Agenda to record their assignments. Please check your child's agenda and the website daily. Go to: [www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/mcelhinney/knuez](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/mcelhinney/knuez)

This website is up and running and will inform you of each subject's current content, a weekly calendar of class work/homework assignments. There will also be a table of contents with the list/order of assignments for the ISN (notebooks). It is extremely important to keep all work in the notebooks.

**Fun Friday/ Homework Club:** About once a month we will have a "Fun Day," students who have completed all assignments will earn a ticket to "Fun Day." Students with missing assignments will attend "Homework Club," and make up any missing assignments.

**Absent work:** For each excused absence, students have **1 day** to make-up any missed work. **Any projects/papers due the date of the absence will be due the day the student returns.** Students are responsible for checking the agenda/calendar and/or website for missed work and collecting handout/worksheets in the class drawers. Notes will be in a drawer in the classroom. I can also email missing assignments if needed.

Grades are based on cumulative points and a percentage-based scale.

**Grading Scale:**

<u>Language Arts</u>		<u>Social Studies</u>	
Tests/ Projects/Presentations	45%	Tests/Projects/Presentations	40 %
Quizzes	35%	Quizzes	30%
Classwork/Homework/Writing	20%	Classwork/Homework	20%
		Interactive Notebook	10%

**Supplies:**

**Needed:**

- 2 11x 8 ½ Single Subject spiral notebooks
- \*Tape Runner or glue sticks
- \* Notebook Paper
- \*Erasable Pens Blue/Black
- \*Sharpened Pencils
- \*Highlighters Multiple Colors
- \*Silent Reading Book

**Suggested:**

- \*Crayons/Colored Pencils
- \*Pencil sharpener
- \*RED Pen

**Classroom Supplies needed/donations:** white copy paper, tape runners, glue sticks, pencils, notebook paper, white board markers, colored markers, staples, highlighters, and colored pencils. See attached supply bingo for your student to earn a front of the line pass.

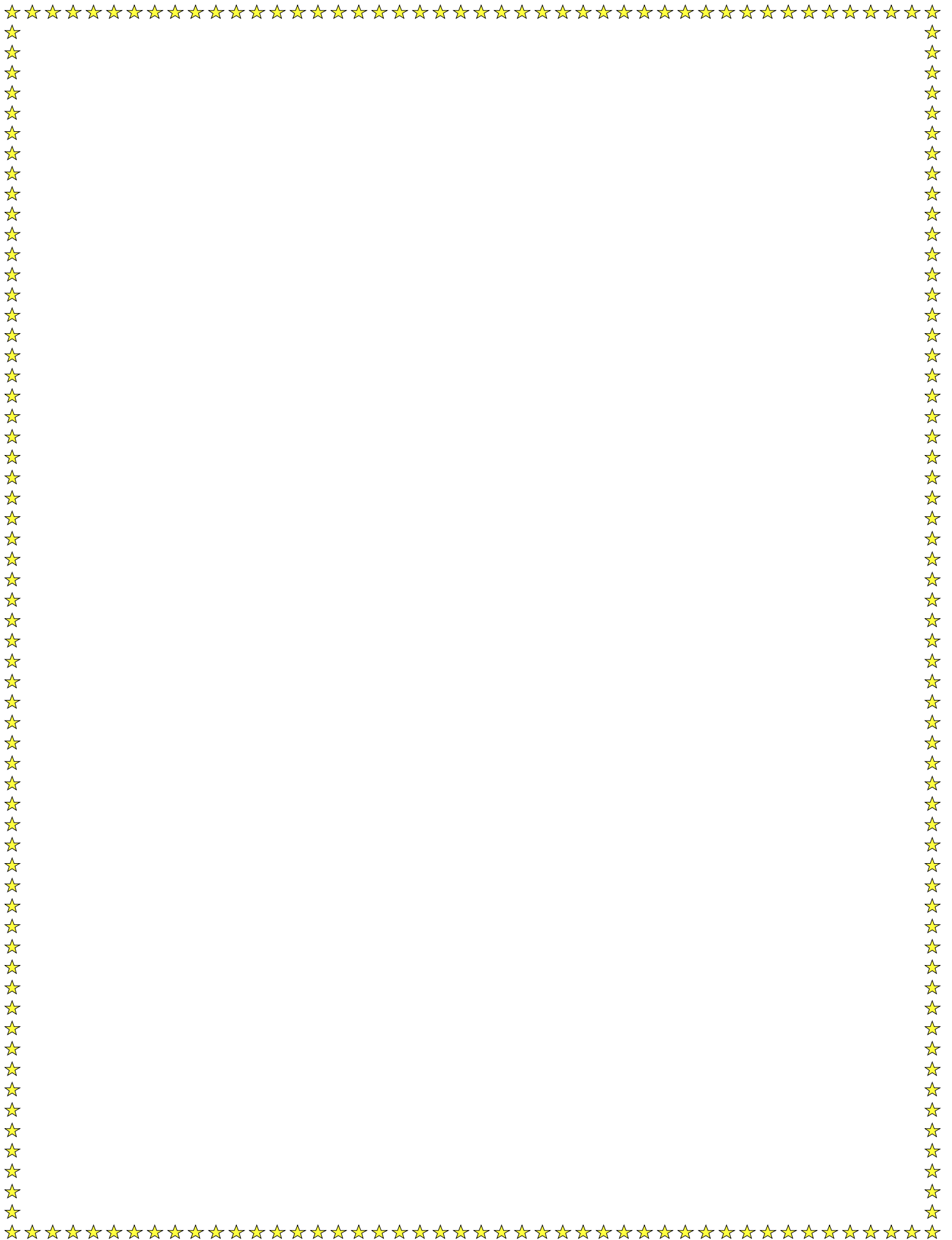
I want my students to have a very successful experience in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as a positive attitude toward their studies, classmates and school. I will take special care to give your child the encouragement he/she needs and provide opportunities for success. I hope you will join me in accomplishing this. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nuez

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/Social Studies

[knuez@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:knuez@murrieta.k12.ca.us) 951-304-1885 x 3624



Please return this page

Ms. Nuez

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/Social Studies

I have read this letter and discussed your classroom expectations with my son/daughter.  
We will work together to help \_\_\_\_\_ be the best he/she can  
be!  
(your child's name)

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone (work,cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Video Permission Slip: Rated PG movies**

We will be watching some PG movies this year, for example second semester students may be reading the novel *A Wrinkle In Time*, at the conclusion of the novel, students will be watching the movie in class and perform a comparison between the movie and the book. Students will also have an opportunity to watch a movie for "Fun Day."

Please check the appropriate line and sign below:

\_\_\_\_\_ My child has permission to watch movies rated PG.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child does not have permission to watch movies rated PG.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature